This month, David reviews the most recent GTC’s “employer” focused workshops and how he witnessed how the Senior Managers within some golf clubs present, are clearly committed to ensuring the business is a success through a team effort.

During 2011 the GTC introduced a pilot programme of three “Chairman of Green” workshops in England, aimed primarily at improving the relationship between the Chairman of Green and the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, by giving delegates an overview of the maintenance and management programmes, based on best practices that a club should be looking to implement.

Expertly delivered by Laurence Pittie MG, Turf Master One, the workshops certainly proved to me that the GTC had started to seriously address a problem which I am sure many clubs could learn from.

From the very first workshop it was evident that some clubs wasted their Chair of Green and/or Secretary and Course Manager to attend. Whilst Laurence had prepared his workshop to be aimed at the “employer”, he has, some 10 workshops later, expertly managed to tailor the day to ensure that it not only benefitted the employer but arguably also, the vitally important relationship between the employer and the Course Manager.

The workshop content is based on the highly acclaimed Scottish Golf Union’s Practical Guide for Greenkeepers with a monthly update on the highly acclaimed Scottish Golf Union’s Practical Guide for Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update.

There is a pattern taking shape at all of our workshops and that is more and more Chair of Green and/or Secretary/Proprietors together with their Course Manager/Head Greenkeepers.

It has been very rewarding to see clearly how Course Managers have truly benefited from seeing their “employer” attend workshops. The workshops are all designed to improve the understanding of each other’s roles and responsibilities in ensuring the golf course side of the business is run effectively and efficiently.

The GTC, following delegate feedback from its workshops, has also considered how best it can provide advice and guidance to golf clubs when the communication system appears to be not convivial to running a successful business.

A “communication triangle” workshop to be delivered by Swan Golf Designs as part of the Continue to Learn programme during Harragate Week, aimed at Course Managers and Deputies but again keeping on the employer focused “education” workshops. William and Howard Swan (R&D) in association with the GTC recently hosted a Design and Renovation workshop at Ripon City Golf Club.

Once again there were several excellent examples of employer – Course Manager “partnerships” in attendance.

ACROSS
1 Servant employed to do various jobs (7,3)
2 The thyroid cartilage of the larynx (5,3)
3 Arrogant, resistant to persuasion (6)
4 Type of underwear, also a type of coffee (4,3)
5 Exploited, used to one’s advantage (8)
6 Comedy series in which Frankie Howerd played the slave Lucius (2,7)
7 French chemist who invented a food preservation process (7)
8 Irish band which launched the career of Van Morrison (4)
9 Programming language used for typically small web-based applications (4)
10 Tragic king of Thebes, the subject of a drama by Sophocles (7,3)
11 1986 single by Peter Gabriel (12)
12 England’s largest inland county (10)
13 Form of dirt track motorcycle racing (8)
14 Witty, often ironic, remark (9)
15 Crucified and unchristianised (6)
16 Constantly (6)
18/20 New tool that turns the world upside down (8)
21 To leave out (4)
22 Run naked in public (6)
23 Small dog named after a region of Poland (10)
24 To leave out (4)
25 In the shed (4)
26 Island whose capital is Saint Peter (5)

DOWN
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Mytime Golf - Orpington Golf Course

Head Greenkeeper

£30,000 - 35,000 per annum, plus benefits. 40 plus hours a week including weekends. Orpington Golf Centre is one of the largest golf facilities in England. The centre encompasses two 18 hole golf courses - Ruxley Park & Cray Valley and a par 39 hole course. It also has an 8 hole academy course along with a 28 bay driving range.

Four main responsibilities will include:
- To act as support/greens maintenance /assembly issues for Mytime Golf and to work with the General Manager on all aspects of Greens management.
- To ensure full support to the Greens maintenance staff and to the professional.
- To support the Greens maintenance team in all construction and other works as required.
- To assist with the grounds maintenance team in all aspects of Health & Safety.

You main responsibilities will include:
• To act as support on all grounds maintenance issues for Mytime Golf and to work with the General Manager in the development of the estate
• To assist all grounds maintenance staff employed by Mytime Golf in their professional development and training
• To support the grounds maintenance team in all project and construction work and other works as required.
• To assist with the grounds maintenance team in all aspects of Health & Safety

For further information or to apply please contact Richard Woolley, Orpington Golf Centre, Cray Ruxley, Sandy Lane, Orpington, Kent, BR5 3HY; Tel: 01689 839 677; E-mail: richard.woolley@mytimegolf.co.uk

Closing Date: 17 June 2012

Whitley Bay Golf Course

Course Manager

Whitley Bay Golf Club is a private members club founded in 1890. Situated 2 miles North of the seaside town, it enjoys what many believe to be one of the best tests of golf in the North East.

Due to the retirement of our current Head Greenkeeper on 31st December 2012, applications are invited for the post of Course Manager from suitably qualified and highly motivated candidates who will:
• Be responsible for all aspects of Course Management
• Continue and enhance the current development programme
• Hold relevant industry qualifications
• Possess knowledge of modern machinery and maintenance
• Possess knowledge and ability in Health and Safety Legislation
• Be computer literate with the ability to provide written reports to the Club Committee on budget formulation and management
• Be able to demonstrate leadership and staff management
• Have a proven track record of a high standard of course presentation

Letter of application with CV should be made by post or email before 2nd July to:-
Mr F Elliott, Secretary/Manager, Whitley Bay Golf Club, Claremont Road, Whitley Bay, NE26 3UF
Or email whtglfclb@aol.com

Greenkeeper

Required for Private Golf Estate in France

Located approx. 100 KM South of Paris
5 years relevant experience required
Working French beneficial
Attractive Salary and Benefits package available to successful candidate
Applications should be sent to: ohc@orange.fr
no later than 30 June 2012

Lecturer in Greenkeeping & Golf Course Management

Permanent, Full Time

£22,643 - £33,548 per annum

At Elmwood College we have more than 40 years’ experience in delivering Golf and Greenkeeping Education. The College has state of the art training facilities, including an 18 hole golf course and practice facilities. We have full time lecturers and part time specialists to ensure a wide variety of relevant courses are available to meet the development and delivery of Vocational Qualifications.

Applicants will demonstrate a sound knowledge of current Greenkeeping and Course Management issues and be in possession of industry related qualifications. A teaching qualification would be preferable as well as considerable current experience in the industry.

For further details and an application form, please contact 01334 658823 or visit the College website: www.elmwood.ac.uk

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 15 June 2012.

Board of Management of Elmwood College is a Scottish Charity, Charity No. SC021190